(viii) A conference of State Ministers and Secretaries incharge of Textiles held on 10.4.2001 resolved to promote investment in the textile sector including weaving.

(ix) With a view to encouraging production of good quality fabrics, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%.

Textile Industry affected by Earthquake in Gujarat

†3613. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile industry in Gujarat has been affected as a result of the recent severe earthquake in that State;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in order to streamline this industry again and to bring it to its earlier situation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian textile industry has been lagging behind day-by-day on world scenario as most of the textile companies are using obsolete technology; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The earthquake in Gujarat has affected almost all sectors of the economy including the textile industry.

(b) Although all concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government have been taking steps for rebuilding the economy of Gujarat, the Ministry of Textiles has taken a number of important steps in regard to textile industry including—

- A sum of Rs. 4.60 crores was sanctioned to Government of Gujarat for construction of 2000 Rural work-shed-cum-houses.
- Share capital assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs was sanctioned to Gujarat Handicrafts Handlooms Development Corporation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to provide marketing support as also for providing input/ raw materials to the artisans of the affected areas.

- 5000 Artisans in the affected areas were to be provided work-sheds by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and necessary toolkits and assistance by organisations like Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
- Looms and working capital assistance under Deen Dayal Hatkargha Protsahan Yojana would be provided by suitable relaxation of the scheme.

(c) and (d) Indian Textile Industry is suffering from technological obsolescence for a variety of reasons. To deal with technological obsolescence, Government have launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years for modernisation of Textiles and Jute Industries. Other important steps taken are:

- Launching of Technology Mission on Cotton on 21.2.2000 for improvement of quality and productivity of cotton in the country; and
- Announcement of National Textile Policy 2000 on 2.11.2000 aimed at making Indian textile industry increasingly competitive and productive with emphasis on quality.

Report regarding consumption of domestic cloth

†3614. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Cotton Committee has recently submitted any detailed report to Government with regard to consumption of domestic cloth;

(b) if so, action agreed upon by Government to meet the demand of cotton through the said report;

(c) whether recommendations made by Parliamentary Standing Committee have been studied in this regard; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.